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MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY

Minutes for Special Meeting of December 10, 2001

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was convened at 4:35 p.m. by Assembly Chairman Dick Traini in the Assembly Chambers, 3600 Denali, Anchorage, Alaska.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Dan Sullivan, Fay Von Gemmingen, Melinda Taylor, Doug Van Etten, Dick Traini, Anna Fairclough, Allan Tesche, Janice Shamberg, Dick Tremaine, Cheryl Clementson.
Absent: Dan Kendall.

The pledge was led by Ms. Fairclough.

3. SPECIAL ORDERS:

A. *Mayor's Veto: Ordinance No. AO 2001-162 As Amended*, an ordinance of the Municipality of Anchorage adopting and appropriating funds for the **2002 General Government Operating Budget** for the Municipality of Anchorage.
(AMENDED AND APPROVED 11-21-01; IMMEDIATE RECONSIDERATION FAILED 11-21-01; VETOED 11-28-01 (**Department of the Assembly** \$84,730; **Cultural and Recreation Services** - \$69,430; **Equal Rights Commission** \$25,000; **Facility Management** \$64,000; **Fire Department** \$186,090; **Health and Human Services** \$193,660; **Mayor's Office** \$42,500; **Police Department** \$143,566; **Project Management and Engineering** \$325,000; **Public Transportation** \$374,190)

Mr. Van Etten moved, to change the order of the day to move
seconded by Mr. Tesche, Public Transportation from 3.A.18 to 3.A.1.

Chairman Traini asked Municipal Attorney Bill Greene if the Assembly could partially override a mayoral line item veto of the 2002 budget to restore only a portion of the dollar amount and the answer was no. The Mayor vetoed \$374,190 and Assembly members had expressed an interest in changing that amount to \$250,000, but according to Mr. Greene's answer that could not be done. It was either all or nothing. He passed out a copy of that legal opinion from Mr. Greene.

Mr. Van Etten moved, to override the of the mayoral veto on item
seconded by Mr. Tesche, 3.A.18, Public Transportation, funding for
transit routes and related maintenance costs
from January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002.
(Reduction: \$374,190)

Mr. Tremaine pointed out that department budget ranks 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 had been put in the budget by the Assembly and vetoed by the Mayor. He saw nothing in the Municipal Charter or Robert's Rules that would prohibit them from splitting the question and reinstating certain department ranks and not others.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Greene said the Assembly changed several service levels in one action, which amounted to a total increase in the department and fund appropriation. The Mayor reduced that total increase by the amount of money indicated on the veto.

In response to Chairman Traini, Mr. Greene said the amendment was done as a group and it was the group that the Mayor had reduced.

Mr. Tremaine said he was prepared to disregard Mr. Greene's opinion, because he did not believe it was sound logic.

Mr. Tesche said the Charter seemed to speak to single sums of money. The Mayor's veto message, although somewhat imprecise in its reference to service levels, addressed a single sum of money. He did not believe it would be prudent for the Assembly to disregard the advice of their attorney in the absence of a more specific opinion from separate counsel. The question would then be whether to override the entire line item exercise by the Mayor or if the veto should stand.

Ms. Fairclough said for the last two and a half years the Assembly has discussed how to stabilize Transit in Anchorage to increase ridership. She encouraged her fellow Assemblymembers to step forward and override this veto so that all Anchorage citizens had equal access to transportation.

Ms. Von Gemmingen spoke in favor of overriding the veto. A woman testified that she had tried to find a job and a home in an area that was on a bus route, but then the route was changed. She felt it was time to stop playing games with the citizens of Anchorage. We need to have a transit system they can depend on.

1 Ms. Clementson said it had taken her quite some time to fully appreciate the value of public transportation
2 to the citizens. She felt the services should be reinstated.

3
4 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.18 and it passed:

5
6 AYES: Fairclough, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine,
7 Clementson.

8 NAYS: Sullivan.

9
10 Ms. Shamberg moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
11 seconded by Ms. Fairclough, 3.A.3, Cultural & Recreational Services,
12 funding to provide continued support to
13 Alaskans for Litter Prevention and
14 Recycling (ALPAR). (Reduction \$20,000)
15

16 Ms. Shamberg said the ALPAR organization has been crucial to maintaining the cleanliness in Anchorage.
17 It also provides employment for otherwise unemployable youths over the summer months. They work on a
18 shoestring. She felt this service was very important to the quality of life in Anchorage. She encouraged an
19 override of the veto.

20
21 Ms. Fairclough concurred with Ms. Shamberg. She noted that this service was provided at this funding
22 level for 15 years prior to the previous year's budget. This had been cut from last year's budget, because of
23 the \$20,000,000 shortfall. While it was recognized as a new item on this year's budget, it had been in our
24 budget for the last 15 years.

25
26 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.3 and it passed:

27
28 AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

29 NAYS: Von Gemmingen, Clementson.

30
31 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
32 seconded by Ms. Taylor, 3.A.4, Cultural & Recreational Services,
33 funding for the Boy's and Girl's Club grants
34 for Mt. View and Northeast Community
35 Centers. (Reduction \$49,430)
36

37 Mr. Tesche said the overriding concern of the Mt. View community three years ago was crime and
38 something for their children to do. Since that time the Mt. View Boy's and Girl's Club has become a very
39 positive magnet for the young people of Mt. View. He did not feel they should back away from the
40 commitment that they had made to the residents and youth of Mt. View. This is important to the welfare of
41 Mt. View as well as public safety. He urged an override of the veto and restoration of current funding for
42 the Mt. View Boy's and Girl's Club.

43
44 Ms. Taylor spoke in support of overriding of the mayoral veto for the Boy's and Girl's Club as well as an
45 override of the \$9,000 that was pulled away from the Northeast Community Center. The Northeast
46 Community Center is a vibrant, viable part of the community. It houses the Weed and Seed Program,
47 which is a crime prevention program. The community counsel meets at the Northeast Community Center.
48 The center is located in the middle of the town center of Muldoon and it deserves to be funded.

49
50 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.4 and it passed:

51
52 AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

53 NAYS: Von Gemmingen, Clementson.

54
55 Ms. Taylor moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
56 seconded by Mr. Tesche, 3.A.5, Equal Rights Commission, a grant to
57 the Minority Police Task Force for a
58 community education program. (Reduction:
59 \$25,000)
60

61 Ms. Taylor referenced a letter from Reverend William Greene, Chairman of the Minority Police Task
62 Force. The Minority Police Task Force has a long history in our community and has been around for more
63 than 20 years. It is a respected entity that has grown phenomenally. It includes a number of members of
64 law enforcement. When the paintball incident occurred, the Minority Police Task Force was at the
65 forefront of the issue. She urged an override of the veto.

66
67 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Taylor said it was imperative to pass this now rather than waiting for
68 the first quarter budget revisions, because the organization has grown quickly and they need staff support.
69 The Governor's Office recently issued its report on tolerance. When you face prejudice in a community
70 and you feel violated, waiting is not a viable option. We have a chance to strike while the iron is hot. This
71 would be the first time they received this grant and it would be put to good use.

72
73 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.5 and it failed:

74
75 AYES: Fairclough, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

76 NAYS: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Clementson.

77

1 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
 2 seconded by Mr. Van Etten, 3.A.6., Facility Management, to provide
 3 manned security at the Fairview Recreation
 4 Center during hours of operation.
 5 (Reduction: \$33,000)
 6

7 Mr. Tesche said they received a memorandum from Larry Petersen explaining how they would be getting
 8 better service for less through a reduction of \$33,000. In reviewing the memorandum, he was not
 9 convinced that using remote cameras monitored by security guards in the Assembly chambers (Loussac
 10 Library) or relying on the physical presence of a substation for the Police Department that has never been
 11 manned on a consistent basis would provide a superior measure of security. There are times when we need
 12 an extra measure of security at the Fairview Recreation Center. A security camera or an unmanned police
 13 substation would not successfully act as a deterrent. He urged the Assemblymembers to respond to the
 14 needs of the Fairview community and keep this level of security available to those residents.
 15

16 Mr. Tremaine felt it was important to look at security in this town. Fairview is an area where an extra
 17 security officer would be of great assistance. The mere knowledge of the presence of a security officer
 18 could be a deterrent. Children primarily used the Fairview Recreational Center. The community asked for
 19 an extra level of protection and he felt they owed it to them to make sure it was there.
 20

21 Municipal Attorney Bill Greene said the Law Department's opinion on partial overrides was before the
 22 Assembly. Attached to that was the Mayor's veto message. The ordinance that the Assembly passed
 23 approved total amounts by fund and department. In terms of the appropriation and the budget, the
 24 Assembly needs to either override or not override the amounts in the Mayor's budget vetoes. The entire
 25 veto must be overridden. You would be presenting to the Mayor with a new department and fund number
 26 that he has not had an opportunity to evaluate.
 27

28 In response to Chairman Traini, Mr. Greene said the Assembly overrode both amounts for ALPAR and the
 29 Boy's and Girl's Club in the same vote for a total veto reduction of \$69,000, which was done correctly.
 30

31 Mr. Tesche referenced page 3, the veto for Facility Management. There is a reference to a total of \$64,000,
 32 but that same veto message very clearly and unequivocally splits the vetoes into two separate items. One is
 33 manned security at the Fairview Rec Center, as per the Mayor's own words, and the other is manned
 34 security at the Town Square Park. Earlier he expressed an opinion that concurred with Mr. Greene to the
 35 extent the vetoes in Public Transit were all lumped together and they would be ill advised to go against that
 36 opinion. But when we look at another department and we see the line item vetoes were separated out, the
 37 Assembly had acted properly in taking these matters up separately. If we override a number of vetoes in
 38 one department, it would be easy for anyone to see exactly what we did. We simply add up all of the
 39 overridden vetoes for the department and that number would be added back into the total appropriation for
 40 that department or fund. He felt the Assembly had acted appropriately in taking separate votes on each of
 41 the separately enumerated vetoes.
 42

43 Mr. Greene suggested taking a few minutes break to review the issue.
 44

45 The meeting recessed at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened at 5:14 p.m.
 46

47 Mr. Greene said they were trying to figure out how the Assembly could do what they wanted to do under
 48 the law. He said they needed 10 more minutes.
 49

50 The meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 5:28 p.m.
 51

52 Mayor Wuerch said the veto motion on the first paragraph talks about striking or reducing specific budget
 53 items, those that are typically referred to as service levels. He concurred with Chairman Traini's plan to
 54 deal with those as line items. Their secondary obligation this evening was appropriations, which was
 55 different than the budget. They were doing the budget line item by line item with vetoes and overrides.
 56 The consequence of that was the appropriation, which would reflect the sum of the numbers that was the
 57 outcome. OMB was prepared to make the editorial changes on the ordinance when the Assembly got to the
 58 appropriation ordinance.
 59

60 Chairman Traini asked Mr. Tesche to remake his motion on item 3.A.6.
 61

62 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
 63 seconded by Mr. Tremaine, 3.A.6, Facility Maintenance, to provide
 64 manned security at the Fairview Recreation
 65 Center during hours of operation.
 66 (Reduction: \$33,000)
 67

68 Mr. Tesche urged a yes vote on the override.
 69

70 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.6 and it failed:
 71

72 AYES: Fairclough, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

73 NAYS: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Clementson.
 74

1 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
2 seconded by Mr. Tremaine, 3.A.7, Facility Management, to provide
3 manned security for Town Square Park.
4 (Reduction: \$31,000)
5

6 Mr. Tesche said Town Square Park and Town Square was Anchorage's and Alaska's front yard. He did
7 not think it was wise or prudent to retreat from our commitment to public safety in the downtown area,
8 particularly in light of the increased threat to our local security. We are desperately trying to lure visitors
9 back into this jurisdiction to help us with our economy. He urged a yes vote on the override.

10
11 Ms. Fairclough agreed that we wanted to maintain a safe facility, but upon researching this she found it was
12 only minutely used for security on an on-call basis. She urged a no vote on the override.

13
14 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.7 and it failed:

15
16 AYES: Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

17 NAYS: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Clementson.

18
19 Mr. Van Etten moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
20 seconded by Mr. Tesche, 3.A.8, Fire Department, to expand training
21 center staffing from January 1, 2002 through
22 September 30, 2002. (Reduction: \$79,190)
23

24 Mr. Van Etten said the Fire Department recommended adding money to the budget to accelerate their
25 training program. He recommended a yes vote.

26
27 Mr. Tremaine said he and several other Assemblymembers had the opportunity to visit with other mayors
28 and Assemblymembers from around the country last week in Atlanta. One of the conference items was on
29 national safety, which translates down to city safety. The Fire and Police Departments are the core of our
30 safety. Training needs to be increased, because the responsibilities and duties will be increased. He felt
31 they had no other choice but to override the veto.

32
33 Mayor Wuerch felt it was important to listen to what the Fire Chief had to say on this issue. Much of our
34 effort depends on when the people can be recruited and put through the training program. He felt
35 substantially expanding the staff when they did not have recruits to put through the program was putting
36 money unnecessarily on the shelf.

37
38 Fire Chief Fullenwider said they started out with three months of funding for two positions. The Mayor
39 added back in an additional quarter year's funding, which gave them six months of funding. The \$79,000
40 would fund those positions for one year. They could not be hired before June, because the positions have
41 to be described, go through Employee Relations, OMB, and the City Manager. The union requires a 90-
42 day announcement of positions. Finally, the testing process is done. Another academy would not run until
43 the end of July. The soonest he could hire for these positions would be June 1, 2002.

44
45 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Fire Chief Fullenwider said he has hired people in January and told them
46 that they would not start until July for the Firefighter/Paramedic level. We have had an active recruitment
47 for firefighter/paramedics and to date we have seven. Those people will start the academy on January 7,
48 2002. The additional 15 positions are not recruited, although we have an open recruitment. We will not be
49 able to recruit them until June or July. We have an internship for paramedics. We hire them, put them
50 through the academy and put them on the street. Nine months down the road is the average before we can
51 have them working independently. Our progress is not really showing, because they are not working
52 independently yet.

53
54 Ms. Von Gemmingen said she wanted the Fire Chief to know that the union has indicated that they would
55 waive the 90-day requirement if asked.

56
57 Fire Chief Fullenwider said they just asked the union to waive the 90-day requirement for a fire investigator
58 and they failed to do that.

59
60 Mr. Tremaine referenced Fire Chief Fullenwider statement that the Mayor had funded an additional quarter
61 of a year. He pointed out that the Mayor does not fund anything. The Assembly appropriates funds and the
62 Mayor has an opportunity to decrease those amounts.

63
64 In response to Mr. Tesche, Union Representative Mr. Hall said the union would cooperate with the Fire
65 Chief in accelerating some of the time requirements in order to get people into the Fire Training Center
66 sooner than July of 2002. The Chief asked the union for a waiver for the fire investigator after they had
67 given a test and put someone through the academy, but that person did not make it through. Our contract
68 says you will not change the subject matter of the testing procedure for 90 days and it would be posted for
69 30 days. We were concerned that it was not going to be posted for 30 days. There have been times in the
70 past when we have accelerated the hiring practices. It would be difficult to hire people. Both of the people
71 that were hired in the past were from outside of Anchorage. He felt the Fire Chief was doing the best with
72 what he had to work with. We need people and we need them now. Currently they are putting two
73 firefighter/paramedic interns with one paramedic so they can double down and get these guys out on the
74 streets faster. They have five firefighters/EMTs coming onboard in January and another academy will be
75 starting at that time. We have all stepped up to help out at the Fire Training Center. If the money were put
76 back in the budget, the union would work with the Fire Chief to get people hired as fast as possible. He
77 believed they were undermanned and needed people to help with the training.
78

1 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.8 and it failed:

2
3 AYES: Fairclough, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Tremaine.

4 NAYS: Sullivan, Shamberg, Clementson.

5
6 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
7 seconded by Mr. Van Etten, 3.A.9, Fire Department, for funding for
8 existing Medic ambulance staffing for six
9 months. (Reduction: \$106,900)

10
11 In response to Ms. Clementson, Mayor Wuerch said the question was how rapidly we could recruit people,
12 get them through the screening process and get them ready for training. In previous years we have been on
13 a two-year cycle for the applicant pool. We have now gone to real time recruiting for firefighters. If we
14 have an applicant, we grab them when we can because we are so woefully short. The biggest crisis we
15 have is in paramedics. We have asked the Chief what his most optimistic recruiting schedule was and fully
16 funded that. The veto was based on the most rapid recruiting and hiring practices that the Fire Department
17 could implement. This year we ended up 12 short in the Fire Department and 22 short in EMS and we had
18 funds to hire those people. We could continue those funds over, but if we cannot get the people why would
19 we want to tie up the money. We are trying to be prudent in how we spend the taxpayers' money. It is not
20 prudent to allocate more than we can reasonably use.

21
22 Ms. Shamberg agreed with Mayor Wuerch. She would hate the idea of cutting anything that involved
23 public safety, but if they were not able to recruit then the money should not be tied up. Her only concern
24 would be whether the reduction would impact future years when the personnel were available.

25
26 In response to Ms. Shamberg, Mayor Wuerch said this would not affect future budgets. The total for the
27 Fire Department for this budget year was \$382,000 and they would look at growing that number in future
28 years. The problem was that they had not been able to recruit to that number in the last 12 months. They
29 would put forth an extraordinary effort to fill that gap. The administration agreed that the Fire and Police
30 Departments should be everything that we could make them.

31
32 Mr. Van Etten said he understood that it may be more than what we could do to approve all of this funding,
33 but there may be a possibility of accelerating some of this recruiting and consequently having a need for
34 some of this funding. He felt the Assembly needed to send a strong message. In the conference last week
35 they heard time and time again that if you always do what you've always done then you are always going
36 to get the same result. Ms. Fairclough commented that for two years she has been approving funding to
37 increase the number of firefighters and paramedics. If we have not been increasing them with the strategies
38 and tactics that we have been using, then the Assembly needs to send a strong message that we need to
39 change those tactics. He suggested that maybe the Assembly Public Safety Committee needed to hear from
40 the Fire Department about recommendations for changing the way they were doing business. He urged a
41 yes vote on the veto override.

42
43 Mr. Tremaine said he hoped, given what the union stated on the previous issue and the fact that they may
44 be able to shorten the period for training, that the administration would work as expediently as possible to
45 get an academy going, knowing that we finalize the budget in April. If they were ahead of schedule and
46 spending more than they had, we would work together to ensure funding was available. We all place the
47 Fire Department as a high priority.

48
49 Mr. Tesche said he wanted to dispel the notion that there was any waste or misuse of public funds in the
50 event the Fire Department was not successful in filling these positions and using all the money. The money
51 would lapse like it had in prior years. It was not irrational to put money into positions and to work as hard
52 as we can to fill those positions. He believed the Assembly should take the administration at its word and
53 challenge the administration to work to fill the positions at sufficient levels to meet the needs of the
54 community. Our nation is at war with a different type of threat and terror that reaches deep into the hearts
55 of this community. We should not respond to this threat by saying the union requires 60 days notice and
56 two weeks for posting positions, so it's business as usual. We should respond by energetically seeking out
57 qualified candidates. We need to fill these academies and these positions.

58
59 Ms. Clementson said even if they were able to recruit people earlier, it did not sound like the Fire
60 Department was ready to put on an academy before July. She agreed with Mr. Tesche that they should be
61 working hard to recruit people for these positions.

62
63 Chairman Traini pointed out that the first responder when you dialed 911 was our Police and Fire
64 Departments.

65
66 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.9 and it failed:

67
68 AYES: Fairclough, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Tremaine.

69 NAYS: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Shamberg, Clementson.

70
71 Mr. Tremaine moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
72 seconded by Ms. Shamberg, 3.A.10, Health & Human Services, funding
73 for one position within the WIC Program.
74 (Reduction: \$74,000)

75
76 Mr. Tremaine pointed out that several years ago the WIC Program used all federal grant money for food
77 vouchers for the women, infants and children. Last year we changed that and took the funding for the staff
78 member out of the grant, which was a direct reduction in the food available to people in need. He felt the

1 position should be funded out of the operating fund so that the women, infants and children who needed
2 food and assistance could have that money.

3
4 In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Jewel Jones said this cut was made in the 2000 budget. The amount
5 of food vouchers going into the program was reduced to cover the cost of the position. The program was
6 still serving a large number of clients. The WIC Program manager position was moved into the grant,
7 therefore it reduced the total amount of money available for food vouchers. We are continuing to serve a
8 large number of clients in the program with that reduction. We have approximately 5,000 clients in the
9 WIC Program.

10
11 In response to Ms. Shamberg, Ms. Jones said they did not turn people away due to lack of funding. They
12 have been able to serve 5,000 clients with the amount of funding that they currently receive. If the \$74,000
13 were restored then they would be able to serve additional clients. If they money was not used then it would
14 stay in the operating budget or revert into a lapse.

15
16 Mr. Sullivan said they were not turning people away from the WIC Program and the program was meeting
17 its objective. When we do the first quarter budget revision, if we find that people are not being served then
18 he would be willing to take another look at this appropriation.

19
20 In response to Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Jones said they did not have a waiting list, because those dollars were not
21 available. They were currently serving the 5,000 clients they had.

22
23 In response to Mr. Van Etten, Ms. Jones said 5,000 clients was a large number for any program in a city of
24 this size. This was a word of mouth type of situation, and if there was more money available then people
25 would know about it.

26
27 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Jones said the main program for the Anchorage area was at 825 L
28 Street. The Boniface program serves a large number of clients. We have a smaller program in Eagle River.
29 Consolidating the delivery of services by shutting down one of the locations was a possibility. They have a
30 small program in the Eagle River area that serves a good clientele, but given some budget reductions they
31 might have to close the Eagle River office. People have to come to the WIC office to acquire their
32 vouchers and we ensure that they are still qualified for the program. About 4,500 of the clients would be in
33 the Anchorage bowl area and about 500 would be in the Eagle River area.

34
35 In response to Mr. Tremaine, Ms. Jones said the program serves about 2 percent of the Anchorage
36 population, which is about 6 percent of the women, infant and children population. The size of the grant is
37 \$1,071,000. Everyone is fully served and there is no money left at the end of the year. According to Mr.
38 Tremaine's calculations, if the money was added back in then 6 percent of the women, infants and children
39 in Anchorage could receive 7 percent more in the way of food assistance. People may be underserved, but
40 they were not able to quantify that.

41
42 In response to Ms. Shamberg, Ms. Jones said the WIC Program was an eligibility program. It is the kind of
43 program that is supported through other state programs, state grants and many of the agencies that they
44 work with. It is not something that they have to advertise. When the funding is available, the clients know
45 this through other agencies and they come in to be served.

46
47 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Jones said the federal grant was used to pay rent at the Boniface facility.
48 They have a charge back at the 825 L Street facility. The rent at the Eagle River location is very small,
49 because it is a shared location with other municipal agencies.

50
51 Mayor Wuerch felt this was an interesting conversation about unfunded mandates. We have struggled long
52 and hard to stop unfunded mandates and here we are debating whether we want to instate one on our own.
53 This federal program is one where the cost of the program can be borne by the grant. The veto takes
54 advantage of that. Overriding this veto would put this cost back on the Anchorage taxpayers when the
55 grant was created by the federal government to be self-supporting. It is admirable that we want to provide
56 more services, but you would be shifting that cost from a federal grant to the local taxpayers for no reason.
57 That is an unfunded mandate by choice. He felt that was the wrong direction to go and hoped the
58 Assembly would sustain the veto.

59
60 Ms. Fairclough said after further investigation she found out that in order to fund 5,000 people's vouchers,
61 the Eagle River office might be closed. She had planned on supporting the Mayor and not overriding the
62 veto, but now she encouraged the Assembly to consider the override. We are already at a disadvantage
63 geographically with no very little bus service. We would be asking people of low income who are trying to
64 provide nourishment for small children to get on a bus and go into Anchorage to acquire their checks.

65
66 In response to Ms. Clementson, Ms. Fairclough said her investigation indicated that they would close down
67 the entire Eagle River office. She would not be opposed to a smaller location. But it was her
68 understanding that with the consolidation of the services the entire staff would be removed from that
69 location.

70
71 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Jones said the Eagle River office had two staff members, including a
72 dietitian and an office associate. There are about 500 clients in the Eagle River area. If the Eagle River
73 office was closed, the two positions would probably be relocated to one of the Anchorage offices.

74
75 In response to Chairman Traini, Ms. Jones said the 500 clients in the Eagle River area would probably be
76 serviced out of the Boniface offices.

1 In response to Ms. Clementson, Ms. Jones said the cost of keeping the office space in Eagle River open was
2 minimal.

3
4 Mayor Wuerch said this was the first time this topic had ever been discussed with the City Manager and
5 himself. He was not in favor of closing the office in Eagle River. He felt they needed to discuss this issue,
6 but it had nothing to do with the motion before the Assembly. He made it clear that they did not plan to
7 close the Eagle River area office, unless there was an overwhelming reason.

8
9 In response to Ms. Clementson, Chairman Traini said the Mayor was on the record saying that it was not
10 his wish to close the Eagle River office and this was the first time he had heard about it.

11
12 In response to Ms. Clementson, Mayor Wuerch said there was no plan to close that office that had been
13 approved by the City Manager or himself. If there was a need to consolidate services in Eagle River, he
14 reserved the option to do so. He was not proposing to disenfranchise any customers of this department and
15 this program by discussing closing an office that he did not know anything about.

16
17 Ms. Von Gemmingen said she had planned to vote against the veto, because it sounded like the position
18 was not one that was needed. She is firmly in favor of the WIC Program. She reminded everyone that this
19 was the first cut at the budget. They have between now and the end of April when they do their first
20 quarter budget revisions to make revisions to the budget. She pointed out that if they needed to do
21 something with the Eagle River office then that could be addressed when the issue came up. She indicated
22 she would be voting no on the veto.

23
24 Ms. Fairclough said she had received emails over the course of the weekend that led her to believe that it
25 was the intent to close the Eagle River office. She appreciated the Mayor's clarification on the record. She
26 would be voting no on the motion to override the veto.

27
28 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.10 and it failed:

29
30 AYES: Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Tremaine.

31 NAYS: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Shamberg, Clementson.

32
33 Mr. Tremaine moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
34 seconded by Mr. Tesche, 3.A.11, Health & Human Services, funding
35 for the Youth Offender Program.
36 (Reduction: \$94,660)
37

38 Mr. Tesche said the principal issue was the question of whether the Assembly should take this action in
39 order to force the State of Alaska to fund these positions, which provide the bulk of the referrals to the
40 Anchorage Youth Court. The assumption is if we make this cut here then the state would spring into action
41 and continue to fund this. He had a letter from the director of the Division of Juvenile Justice of the
42 Department of Health and Social Services of the state. He read the bottom portion of the letter. "The
43 withdrawal of the Municipality's financial support for this part of the Youth Offender Program will reduce
44 levels of service to the people of Anchorage. I am not being trite when I say that we can do more together
45 than either of us can do alone. We have a program and an outcome that we both can be proud of. It is
46 unfortunate that we stand ready to take action, which very likely will dismantle one of the least expensive
47 and most effective delinquency intervention processes in Alaska. It is my genuine hope that the Assembly
48 and Mayor Wuerch, working together, will find a way to continue the Municipality's financial participation
49 in this effective partnership. If the meaning of these words is not clear, let me be more blunt. The state
50 will not and cannot fund the two positions that for the last five years the Municipality has been funding,
51 because of the budget shortfall that the state has. The State of Alaska is at now, today, \$600,000,000 short
52 of being able to meet next year's budget." These two positions will not continue if we do not override the
53 veto. We are facing a crisis in our Youth Court in terms of its ability to receive the referrals necessary to
54 continue its program at current levels. Mr. Tesche urged the Assembly override the Mayor's veto.

55
56 Arthur Anderson introduced himself and said he was with the Division of Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Intake
57 Unit.

58
59 In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Mr. Anderson said they entered into the partnership and the state
60 wishes to continue that partnership. We cannot continue the current levels of service to the community of
61 Anchorage without the partnership. If they were to go it alone then they would not have the three positions,
62 even with the state picking up one of those positions. If they lost those two positions, they would not be
63 able to keep up with the current program or the promises that were made under the Making a Difference
64 Program, which was to see each juvenile offender within 7 to 10 days of the offense. The backlog would
65 also go to the Anchorage Youth Court and they would not be able to see every single offender. They would
66 have to start seeing only the more serious offenses. The City of Anchorage enjoys a higher level of service
67 from the division that no other community enjoys. Many of the other Divisions of Juvenile Justice are not
68 able to keep up with minor offenses. It was his understanding that the state would not fund the third
69 position if they did not have the partnership. Steve McComb advised us that the state would fund one
70 position, but they were not able to sustain the three positions.

71
72 Mayor Wuerch said this was the first time he had heard the letter and he felt there was a misunderstanding.
73 There was an agreement where the state would fund one position and the city would fund two positions.
74 He felt the author of the letter might have misunderstood that. We are in a partnership. We are paying for
75 two positions and we accepted the state's offer to pay for the third position. He felt it was a good deal and
76 they should do it.

77

1 Mr. Sullivan said they heard in the work session that the state was willing to pick up one of these officers
2 and that led to the commitment that we would pick up the other two. He felt there was a misunderstanding,
3 because both the testimony of Mr. Anderson and the letter indicated that we were withdrawing all of our
4 funding for this program. We are supporting this program, but we are taking the state up on their offer to
5 pay for one of their own employees. Several years ago we took up the charge of paying for three state
6 employees to perform this job and it was a very noble effort by the Municipality. He felt they should
7 gradually try to get that back into the state hands. He felt it was a good partnership if the state was willing
8 to pay for one of the officers and we were willing to pay for two of the officers. He supported the veto.
9

10 Ms. Taylor urged caution on the part of the Assembly. She spoke to the State Budget Director and she
11 indicated that the funding from the state was not guaranteed. This program is very unique in that it was not
12 an unfunded state mandate. The Assembly created it in an effort to solve the problem of juvenile crime. It
13 is not the state's responsibility, but the Assembly's responsibility to our youth to assist in funding this
14 program. She urged the Assembly to play it safe and override the veto.
15

16 Ms. Fairclough said the 2002 Legislative agenda was waiting to be approved and this was an item on that
17 agenda to pursue the funding from the state.
18

19 Ms. Shamberg said this has been a highly successful program. If anything, it should be increased. She did
20 not want to risk having the program diminished by counting on funding that might not be there. She
21 encouraged an override of the veto.
22

23 Mr. Tesche felt it would be a mistake for the Assembly to take these funds out of the budget, because we
24 would run the chance of crippling this program. If this program could be maintained at its current level or
25 at a higher level by less municipal funding then the Assembly could entertain an amendment to the budget
26 at that time. He urged the Assembly not to make this move until they had information that suggested this
27 was a safe move. Based on the comments that he heard, he felt the program should be expanded. We
28 should look at using the Youth Court to address other types of juvenile crime in this community. It is a
29 program that works and this is not the time to walk away from it. He urged a yes vote on the override.
30

31 Mr. Tremaine said he consistently and continually voted for programs that increased public safety. Having
32 the intake officers strengthening this program reduces recidivism and future crime. He did not like
33 unfunded mandates. This amounts to \$160,000, which is one percent of the unfunded mandate that we
34 have from Senior Citizens/Disabled Veterans tax exemption. He looked forward to support from the
35 Mayor and the Assemblymembers that are opposed to unfunded mandates to support legislative efforts to
36 require state funding for Senior Citizens.
37

38 Ms. Von Gemmingen urged a no vote on the veto override. She felt it was a critical public safety program
39 and absolutely needed. However, if the state said they were going to pay for the third intake officer then
40 we should wait and see if they do. If they do not, we have many opportunities to change the 2002 budget.
41

42 Chairman Traini said he intended to support the Youth Offender Program. He realized it may be an
43 unfunded state mandate, which he dislikes, but he had no confidence that the state would fund the third
44 position.
45

46 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.11 and it failed:
47

48 AYES: Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson.

49 NAYS: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen.
50

51 Ms. Shamberg moved,	to override the mayoral veto of item
52 seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,	3.A.13, Mayor's Office, funding for a grant
	to the Alaska Moving Image Preservation
	Association (AMIPA). (Reduction:
	53 \$30,000)

54
55
56
57 Ms. Shamberg said recently AMIPA was awarded a matching grant. They can successfully engage in
58 cataloging and preserving footage that various Alaskans over the years have accumulated and donated.
59 Without help by the city, they will not get those matching grants and that footage would ultimately
60 deteriorate. She urged a yes vote on the override of the veto.
61

62 Ms. Von Gemmingen felt this was a very important program. She felt preserving that part of history was as
63 important as the artifacts that were at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. She was concerned that
64 AMIPA had not had a fundraiser in a while and she challenged them to do that to help themselves. She
65 urged a yes vote on the override of the veto.
66

67 Mr. Tesche said it was his understanding that AMIPA had a successful fundraiser that brought in \$500,000
68 from the federal government.
69

70 In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Lastufka Taylor said AMIPA received \$500,000 from the federal
71 government. They have also engaged in local fundraisers. They just hired a development expert to help
72 them raise private money, because they wanted more private dollars coming into the program. With this
73 grant they would need every dollar that they could get. They received a matching grant of \$500,000, so
74 they would have to raise \$500,000 to access the money. She wanted the city to be a partner in this program
75 as they had been for the past four years.
76

77 In response to Ms. Shamberg, Ms. Lastufka Taylor did not feel it was premature to write a thank you letter
78 to the Assembly and the administration for their support knowing that vetoes would be coming down.

1 Board Chairman Walt Parker called the city and talked to Jim Posey and asked him if the Mayor was going
 2 to veto the amount and was told that would not happen. She believed there was some in-kind contributions
 3 that could be done for the grant. She was in the process of going through all of the guidelines of the grant
 4 to figure it out. If they do not match the \$500,000, they do not get the entire grant. If they only match
 5 \$100,000 then they would receive \$100,000.

6
 7 In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Ms. Lastufka Taylor said people who were interested in becoming
 8 members of the Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association could contact her at 279-8433 or at 1324
 9 Primrose Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. She would love to increase the membership, because this was
 10 everyone's history.

11
 12 In response to Ms. Taylor, Ms. Lastufka Taylor said the lease for their building was up in August. They
 13 were told that they were looking at other non-profits similar to the Boy's and Girl's Club to move into that
 14 building. She thought the term used was safety net organizations. There was a tour coming through this
 15 month of Municipal employees to tour the facility with the idea of looking at it for office space for the
 16 Municipality. We have 11,000 items, a major technical facility and staff. It would be a major hardship if
 17 we lost that space. AMIPA received a state grant for \$440,000 to make improvements to the building. The
 18 building was built in the 1950s and it was an old telephone exchange building and then it was used as a
 19 library. There were major things that needed to be done to the building. They also received \$60,000 as in-
 20 kind services from different construction companies. There was \$500,000 worth of improvements put into
 21 the building. Many of the improvements were for access for the disabled and the handicapped.

22
 23 Mayor Wuerch said the administration supported the efforts of AMIPA and he was the champion of the
 24 initial \$50,000 grant. When it came to his attention that this was a matching grant, he immediately thought
 25 about what the city could do to help AMIPA meet that matching grant quickly and still fit into the overall
 26 strategy of what the Municipality needed to do in the way of helping non-profits and creating an
 27 environment where we do not perpetuate long-term costs repeatedly. The city owns the building that
 28 AMIPA is in. We heat the building, light it and maintain it. If the city were to sell the building to AMIPA
 29 for \$1.00, they would have an instant match to their \$500,000 grant, as well as owning their own building.
 30 He felt that was a discussion that they should have with AMIPA. The deal would benefit the city, because
 31 they would no longer have to maintain the building. It would benefit the citizens of Anchorage by
 32 immediately matching the \$500,000 grant and putting AMIPA on solid footing with a facility that they
 33 could continue to use as long as it was beneficial to them. Should they decide to relocate, they could sell
 34 the building and transfer that asset value to their new location. He felt it would be a win-win situation if
 35 the deal could be worked out.

36
 37 In response to Mayor Wuerch, Ms. ? felt that would be an interesting offer to explore. They are scheduled
 38 to go to the University of Alaska's new multi-media library in two or three years. She pointed out that
 39 AMIPA has been paying the utilities and the Municipality has been paying for repairs to the building.

40
 41 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.13 and it failed:

42
 43 AYES: Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg.

44 NAYS: Fairclough, Sullivan, Tremaine, Clementson.

45
 46 Mr. Tesche moved, to override the mayoral veto of item
 47 seconded by Ms. Taylor, 3.A.15, Police Department, funding for
 48 support staff (dispatch, crime lab, etc.)
 49 (Reduction: \$68,566)
 50

51 Mr. Tesche said we had a severe crisis of manpower in the Police Department, as well as severe shortages
 52 of people that offer support to police officers, such as dispatch and crime lab. The phrase "meltdown" has
 53 been used too many times to describe the support staff and the situation at the Anchorage Police
 54 Department. He felt this was a critical public safety amendment that should be restored to the budget. He
 55 urged a yes vote on the override of the veto.

56
 57 Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the veto comment said the balance remaining in the budget was sufficient to
 58 fund seven dispatch positions for nine months. He questioned if they were going to try to hire those
 59 positions by the end of the first quarter or if they were just funding the current employees for the next nine
 60 months.

61
 62 In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mayor Wuerch said they hired four dispatchers last week and they had seven
 63 in training. They have 11 dispatchers in the cue.

64
 65 In response to Mr. Sullivan, Police Chief Monegan said he proposed an initial budget for the Police
 66 Department of \$45,000,000 plus. If this veto were to be upheld, the Assembly would add about \$160,000
 67 over his initial budget. They hired seven dispatchers last summer. The process to train a dispatcher was to
 68 put them through an eight-week academy and then they train with other dispatchers for hands-on training.
 69 Six to eight months was required before a dispatcher could work on their own. He only has a finite number
 70 of trainers and with 11 dispatchers in the cue they would be overwhelmed. They could hire more
 71 dispatchers, but they would not be utilized. The seven dispatchers that were hired last summer are part of
 72 this year's budget. He had some vacancies this year and wanted to get a jump on it because of the shortage.
 73 The dispatchers approached him with a new concept of 12-hour shifts, which many are currently working.
 74 We are going to try it on a trial basis. Instead of trying to staff three shifts, we would be staffing two shifts,
 75 because no overlap was required. If this worked out, some of the staffing crunch might go away. We are
 76 hoping this will be a mitigator in both resources and finances.

77

1 In response to Mr. Tesche, Chief Monegan said Anchorage was below average in terms of officers per
2 capita. We are currently at 1.4 and the West Coast average a couple of years ago was 1.7. We put our
3 priorities on the critical areas. The only full time operation he currently had was dispatch. The Records
4 Department is short staffed and could use additional people. He was hoping to do that with the vacancy
5 factor later in the year. The Records Department also went to a compressed workweek and they are
6 keeping up. We are experimenting with a 10-hour shift for them and it seems to be working.

7
8 In response to Mr. Tremaine, Chief Monegan said dispatch and crime lab employees were not uniformed
9 officers. They could not do meter work. We have not seen the type of activities that some of the larger
10 cities have seen, but we have been getting more requests. As we move further from September 11th, he felt
11 they would see a more realistic overview on what security was really required. As more regulations come
12 through on the national level, we will probably see a heavier workload in paperwork. We are hoping to get
13 the MDTs operational and that will allow us to move away from the actual paper mode of police reports.
14 We will be able to transfer the reports digitally from the officer's laptop right into the record system and
15 that should shorten our work hours.

16
17 In response to Mr. Tesche, President of Anchorage Police Department Association, Rob Heun, said these
18 were non-sworn positions. He did not disagree with what Chief Monegan had stated, but his perspective
19 was a little bit different. Originally the monies that were in this line item were expected to fund two clerks
20 and a senior clerk who could have been used in Records. The Records Section was actually backlogged.
21 These positions would increase the efficiency of the Records Section, which is the backbone of what police
22 officers do. Records are the people who work behind the doors and process the court paperwork. On
23 average we keep one out of four dispatchers that we hire by the time they are trained. He felt that needed to
24 be taken into consideration. A dispatcher on their Executive Board said she worked 56 hours of overtime
25 in the last two pay periods that she did not want to work. Anything the Assembly could do to fund
26 dispatchers would be greatly appreciated.

27
28 Ms. Clementson said she appreciated the fact that they were hiring new dispatchers. She supported the
29 concept of it, but not the funding source.

30
31 Mr. Heun urged the Assembly to prioritize the need as opposed to the funding source.

32
33 Chairman Traini said he recently met with the support staff and they indicated that this area was being
34 stressed to the breaking point. He felt there were other dispatchers that they could be hired.

35
36 Question was called on the motion to override the mayoral veto of item 3.A.15 and it failed:

37
38 AYES: Fairclough, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

39 NAYS: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Clementson.

40
41 Mr. Tremaine said item 3.A.17, Project Management & Engineering, was for \$325,000 to partially pay for
42 the over \$1,000,000 expense of re-surveying the Rabbit Creek Subdivision that was surveyed improperly
43 during borough days. Given the make-up of the Assembly tonight and its propensity to cut public safety,
44 he saw no hope that they would fund this. He noted that the \$325,000 fund source was one-time funds for a
45 one-time expense and it was an appropriate use of the money. He would not move the item, because it
46 stood no chance of passage in his opinion.

47
48 Mr. Sullivan said they did not cut public safety. Almost every department of public safety received an
49 increase, but not as great an increase as the Assembly amendments totaled up to.

50
51 Ms. Taylor offered a point of clarification. In the reasoning for the veto for funding a vacant position for
52 the policy and budget analyst position, it says that this was a new position. She referenced a memorandum
53 by Ms. Gray-Jackson. This was not a new position, but an attempt to fill a vacancy to better serve the
54 needs of the body.

55
56 Chairman Traini directed the body to a legal opinion from the Legal Department referencing the Mayor's
57 veto. The City Attorney agreed that was not the proper vehicle. The Mayor reduced the total dollar
58 appropriation for the department, which he can do. Where that money comes from is totally up to the
59 Assembly.

60
61 In response to Ms. Fairclough, Chairman Traini said the Mayor had the power to lower the amount of
62 money appropriated for that department.

63
64 Ms. Fairclough said the 3.A.2 veto was for a vacancy factor, which was different from an overall budget.
65 This veto did not veto a department as a whole, but a vacancy factor, which was not allowed. She did not
66 feel it should be on the table.

67
68 Mayor Wuerch said Ms. Frasca would be passing out the amended AO 2001-162 as amended, as vetoed, as
69 overridden. OMB would add the correct numbers as a result of tonight's actions.

70
71 Mr. Greene noted that the handout did not show the amounts overridden. It would show the Assembly's
72 original approval, what the Mayor's vetoes did to those numbers, and OMB would add the changes that the
73 Assembly made tonight in their overrides.

74
75 Ms. Shamberg moved, to approve AO 2001-162 as amended,
76 seconded by Mr. Tesche, as vetoed, as overridden with instructions to
77 OMB to fill in the numbers.
78

1 Question was called on the motion to approve AO 2001-162 as amended, as vetoed, as overridden and it
2 passed:

3
4 AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine,
5 Clementson.

6 NAYS: None.

7
8 Chairman Traini thanked the Mayor and his staff for this budgetary process. This was the way the budget
9 was designed to work and it was nice to get back on track.

10
11 Mayor Wuerch said the administration appreciated the cooperation of all the Assemblymembers who got
12 their amendments in early. It is always tough to make the hard choices and priorities. He appreciated the
13 focus on public safety.

14
15 Mr. Tesche noted that the budget had been approved and was still \$6,000,000 less than the continuation
16 level budget that was looked at earlier this year. This would be a \$6,000,000 reduction.

17
18 Mr. Tesche moved, for immediate reconsideration of
19 seconded by Ms. Clementson, AO 2001-162 as amended, as vetoed, as
20 overridden.

21
22 Mr. Tesche recommended a no vote.

23
24 Question was called on the motion for immediate reconsideration of AO 2001-162 as amended, as vetoed,
25 as overridden and it failed:

26
27 AYES: None.

28 NAYS: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine,
29 Clementson.

30
31 Ms. Taylor thanked the Manager of Budget and Legislative Services Ms. Gray-Jackson for her hard work.
32 She has done this job for a number of years and has done an excellent job assisting and streamlining the
33 process.

34
35 **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

36
37 The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45 _____
46 Chair Dick Traini

47 ATTEST:

48
49
50
51 _____
52 Municipal Clerk

53
54 Date Minutes Approved 2002.

55
56 GM/kron
57